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SLOW INTRODUCTION OF SECONDARY METHODS OF PRODUCTION
OF PETROLEUM IN THE AZNEFT' ASSOCIATION

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One of the most important means of increasing petroleum production is the use of secondary methods of production. The current system of exploiting petroleum deposits results in about 50-60 percent of the crude petroleum remaining unexploited in the petroleum-bearing strata. Secondary methods of production are being used to produce this crude petroleum. These methods involve repressuring with gas, air, or water.

In introducing secondary methods of production, the Leninneft' and the Buzovnyneft' trusts completed operations ahead of time and raised the level of production.

Recently, introduction of secondary methods of production has been developing rapidly in Azerbaydzhan. A petroleum expedition has been organized by the Academy of Sciences Azerbaydzhan SSR. Specialists from the Azneft' Association collaborated in this undertaking. The expedition is working on important theoretical problems and on perfecting the utilization of artificial pressure in exploiting petroleum deposits. Divisions and special offices for secondary methods of production have been set up in the petroleum producing trusts.

The number of oil wells produced by means of repressuring has been greatly increased. At present, secondary methods of production are being used in ten trusts. This means that hundreds of oil wells are being produced by this method.

However, opportunities for secondary methods of production are not being fully utilized by the Azneft' Association. Many petroleum-producing trusts continue to underestimate the significance of industrial use of repressuring methods. Mukhin and Kuliyeu, the directors of Kaganovichneft' Trust, are not paying sufficient attention to the [trust's] office of secondary methods of production. In this trust, the plans for pumping water and air [into the contour zones] and for preparing input and production wells are not being fulfilled. The directors of the Stalinneft' Trust, Movsumzade and Aliyev, do not show initiative in the introduction of secondary methods of production.

A substantial share of the responsibility for the introduction of secondary methods of production must be borne by the directors of the Azneft' Association. The association's division for secondary methods of production (chief, Bilandari) and its geological administration (chief geologist, Melik-Rashayev) are not doing their duty with regard to maintenance of artificial pressure at petroleum deposits. Certain directors of drilling offices and construction organizations are failing to meet this most pressing problem.

During the last 8 months, the plan for the drilling of input wells was fulfilled by only 75 percent. New construction of other objectives is continually delayed. For example, the construction of water-purification units in the Stalinneft' and Leninneft' trusts is 6-8 months behind schedule.

Workers of the Azneft' Association have lodged justifiable complaints against AzNII (Azerbaydzhan Scientific Research Institute) and the Petroleum Expedition of the Academy of Sciences Azerbaydzhan SSR. These institutions have been slow in solving the basic problems of secondary methods of production and are not giving the required assistance to oil field workers for the timely compilation of technical geological plans. The Petroleum Expedition

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has completed only two of 16 required technical geological plans. Workers of AzNII are not effectively solving the problems of the use of sea water in place of alkaline water [in repressuring] and the problem of determining the effectiveness of repressuring with water, gas, and air.

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